

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. KEHNE VISIT TO INDIA BRINGS COLD COMFORT

EMBASSY NEW DELHI REPORTS THAT THE CONSULTATIONS OF OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL KEHNE WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BROUGHT NO CONCRETE HELP TO INDIA FOR COPING WITH THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BIND CREATED BY THE TEHRAN PRICE DECISION. THE BEST OFFER THE INDIANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECEIVE FROM KEHNE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE ARRANGEMENT FOR PARTIAL FINANCING OF OIL IMPORTS. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT IF INDIA'S FAITHFUL SUPPORT FOR ARAB FOREIGN POLICY IS GOING TO HAVE A PAYOFF IN THE OPEC, IT IS YET TO COME. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) NEW DELHI 110, 1/4.

2. ISRAELI VOTING TRENDS SHOW RELATIVE STABILITY -

WITH 1.2 MILLION OF THE 1.55 MILLION VOTES CAST IN THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION COUNTED, EMBASSY TEL AVIV'S PROJECTION OF SEATS IN THE NEW KNESSET REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. ALTHOUGH THE WAR HELPED IMPROVE THE LIKUD'S
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KNESSET STRENGTH, IT STILL LACKS SUFFICIENT SEATS TO CON-

STITUTE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LABOR ALIGNMENT. THE POWER OF THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY AND THE INDEPENDENT LI-

BERALS HAS INCREASED AS A RESULT OF LABOR LOSSES AND THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THE LABOR PARTY WILL BE FACED WITH DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO REACH A COALITION AGREEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES MRS. MEIR HAS REASONABLY GOOD PROSPECTS OF FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 00042, 1/3.

3. TANAKA HOPES TO IMPROVE JAPAN'S IMAGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

ACCORDING TO JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES, PRIME MINISTER TANAKA WILL ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE JAPAN'S IMAGE OF EXCESSIVE ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST DURING HIS TOUR OF SOUTHEAST ASIA JANUARY 7-17. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES TANAKA WILL WORK TO SOLIDIFY RELATIONS AND THEREBY HELP ASSURE JAPAN'S ACCESS TO RESOURCES, MARKETS, AND INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES PARTICULARLY IN INDONESIA AND THAILAND. THE TOUR WILL TAKE PLACE AGAINST A BACKDROP OF GROWING ANTI-JAPANESE SENTIMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HIGHLIGHTS JAPANESE ANXIETIES OVER OBTAINING RESOURCES. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 0027, 1/3. KISSINGER

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